

Wilson County CTP Steering Committee
Minutes
May 14, 2009, 10:00 am

Members Present

Charles W. Pittman, III
R. Bryant Bunn, III, P.E.
Rodger Lentz, AICP
Gronna Jones
Jennifer Lantz
Robert Bartlett, P.E.
Jimmy Eatman, P.E.
Ron Sutton, P.E.

Andrew Small
Charles Hawkins
Mark Johnson
Daniel N. Van Liere
Bill Bass
Elaine Swinson
Rochelle Moore
Elina Zlotchenko
Elena Talanker

1. Welcome & Introductions

Elina Zlotchenko with NCDOT began the meeting at 10:15 am and welcomed everyone to the initial steering committee meeting for the Wilson County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Elina asked the group to introduce themselves.

2. CTP Purpose

Mrs. Zlotchenko described the purpose of the Wilson County CTP as to identify existing and future transportation deficiencies in the area and generate information decisions-makers can use to guide future transportation decisions with the primary objectives to reduce traffic congestion and improve safety. The end product will be a plan which will be mutually adopted by NCDOT, Wilson County, the City of Wilson and other Wilson County municipalities.

Mrs. Zlotchenko explained that the Wilson County CTP is developed as a “wish list” of projects for the County not as a promise that projects will be constructed. Nor does the CTP determine pinpoint locations of new roads.

Mrs. Zlotchenko described the differences between the CTP and the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). TIP is a seven year plan where the CTP is developed as a 25 to 30 year plan. CTP is not fiscally constrained while the TIP has money directly tied to projects. CTP does not require air quality conformity while the TIP must consider this issue.

Daniel Van Liere stated the importance of the CTP, describing the future linkage between projects listed within a CTP and those added into the TIP.

Mrs. Zlotchenko explained that the CTP will consist of highway, public transportation and rail, bicycle, and pedestrian elements. Each element will be described in its own section and have its own map.

Mrs. Zlotchenko broke down the CTP process into five steps; 1) Study Initiation, 2) Data Collection, 3) Data Analysis and Projections, 4) Plan Development, and 5) Plan Adoption.

Mrs. Zlotchenko asked for questions. With none, she moved on in the agenda.

3. Future Meeting Dates

Mrs. Zlotchenko asked the steering committee how often they would like to meet. She also proposed the development of subcommittees which would focus on individual modes (Bike, Ped, Rail, etc...) which some may not be as interested in.

Mr. Van Liere recommended that the steering committee meet once a month to keep the project meeting. Mr. Van Liere stated that this schedule has been widely used across the state and seems to be the best way to keep individuals involved.

The agreed upon date and time is second Thursday each month at 9:00am.

Elena Talanker stated that meeting dates, minutes, and CTP information will be made available on the NCDOT – Transportation Planning Branch's website.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Mrs. Zlotchenko stated that the first responsibility of the steering committee will be to determine which roads will be studied within this plan. Mrs. Zlotchenko presented two maps of functionally classified roads with one focusing on the County and another focused on the City of Wilson. Mrs. Zlotchenko explained that the highlighted roads on the two maps must be in the plan and that the steering committee will be responsible for identifying any other roads that should be addressed with the study.

Mrs. Zlotchenko described two tools which will be used in the plan's development. A trend analysis will be used for County area and a model, using TransCAD, will be used for the City of Wilson. The model developed for the City of Wilson will result in a different set of maps and analysis of bike, pedestrian, transit, and highway elements.

Jennifer Lantz asked if there was an assumption that transit did not exist for the County. It was then explained that the County areas would also receive analysis of these elements, that the City of Wilson would receive a more focused and more detailed analysis of the elements due to its size and system usage.

Mrs. Zlotchenko explained that the model developed for the City of Wilson will take longer to develop than the trend analysis of the County and so she suggests the development of a subcommittee to focus on the City of Wilson which will then report back to the main steering committee.

Mark Johnson requested clarification as to the purpose of the Wilson City subcommittee and how it differs from the general steering committee which currently exists. Through much

discussion it was made clear that dividing the County into subcommittees, with one focusing on the City and another focusing on the County, would not be beneficial to the overall development of the CTP. Mrs. Lantz stated her understanding of the need for bike, ped, and transit subcommittees but not for the City and the County.

It was also decided that future agendas for steering committee meetings will be sent out at least one week in advance of the meeting to allow committee members details as to what will be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Public Participation

Mr. Van Liere explained that the Public Participation Plan (PPP) is a document developed by the Upper Coastal Plain RPO to provide a generalized approach to reaching the public. The PPP was developed for a four county region and so may need supplementation to reach more individuals within Wilson County. Mr. Van Liere asked that the steering committee members review the PPP and take note of any recommendations that may be beneficial for generating a greater public outreach.

6. Goals and Objectives Survey

Mr. Van Liere presented the survey and explained that the survey is a commonly used survey used across the state in other CTPs. Mrs. Zlotchenko stated that NCDOT uses survey monkey as an online tool for surveying and compiling information. Rodger Lentz described some possible confusion that may exist within the survey and proposed the use of focus group discussions to provide more useful feedback from citizens. Mr. Lentz also stated that the City of Wilson Planning department would be willing to further discuss the use of focus groups with the steering committee as well as provide staff time to put on focus group meetings through the community.

7. Status of CTPs in the Surrounding Counties

Mrs. Zlotchenko explained that the Wilson County CTP will utilize surrounding county's CTPs to assure that boarder projects are addressed.

8. Land Use Plan/ Other Plans Inventory

Mrs. Zlotchenko asked that municipalities provide their Land Use Plans for consideration within the CTP. Mr. Lentz stated the need for the CTP's development to work cohesively with the land use plans developed by Wilson County as well as the municipalities to allow for a consistent vision.

9. Next Meeting

Mrs. Zlotchenko asked that the steering committee think about the planning boundaries and roadway network for the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on June 11, 2009 at 9:00am at the Wilson Operations Center located at 1800 Herring Blvd. Wilson, NC.